SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF NURSING

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IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSURE PROCEEDINGS

RE: KAREN

KAREN PALMER, RN

License No. R047702

DOH 17-12

VOLUNTARY SURRENDER CONSENT ORDER

Licensee.

WHEREAS, Karen Palmer, RN ("Licensee"), is licensed to practice as a registered nurse in the State of South Dakota and holds License number R047702; and

WHEREAS, on or about July 25, 2017, the South Dakota Board of Nursing ("South Dakota Board") received an Order from the Georgia Board of Nursing ("Georgia Board") entitled Order of Summary Suspension ("Georgia Order"), in which the Licensee was ordered to undergo a mental/physical examination after the Georgia Board received information that Licensee had undergone treatment for drug and alcohol issues since the date of her last renewal of her nursing license; and

WHEREAS, the Georgia Order stated that Licensee was discharged from treatment due to noncompliance with the treatment program. The Georgia Order noted that Licensee was also noncompliant with the aftercare program in which she had voluntarily enrolled. The Georgia Order indicated that the physician conducting the evaluations determined that the Licensee was not capable of practicing clinical nursing with reasonable skill and safety. Based upon the information received, the Georgia Board determined that continued practice by the Licensee posed a threat to the public health, safety and welfare and imperatively required emergency

action. Consequently, the Georgia Board summarily suspended the Licensee and noticed her for an expedited hearing; and

WHEREAS, the South Dakota Board, in addition to receiving the Georgia Order, was also made aware that Licensee had also been summarily suspended in the state of Wyoming in July 2017; and

WHEREAS, based upon the above, Licensee has agreed that she will surrender her South Dakota nursing license; and

WHEREAS, the South Dakota Board has a statutory obligation to protect the public health, safety and welfare set forth in SDCL §36-9, including the protection of the public from unsafe nursing practices and practitioners; and

WHEREAS, Licensee agrees that the matters under investigation would be of a nature that would constitute grounds for the discipline of her license to practice nursing in South Dakota under SDCL § 36-9-49 (4), (6), (7), and (10); and

WHEREAS, the Licensee agrees that she enters into this Voluntary Surrender Consent Order voluntarily and without duress or compulsion, in full understanding of the legal consequences of this document and her rights; therefore,

IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

- That the South Dakota Board has jurisdiction over the person of the Licensee and the subject matter of this Voluntary Surrender Consent Order.
- That on or about July 25, 2017, the South Dakota Board received the Georgia
 Order from the Georgia Board, in which the Licensee was ordered to undergo a mental/physical

examination after the Georgia Board received information that Licensee had undergone treatment for drug and alcohol issues since the date of her last renewal of her nursing license.

The Georgia Order stated that Licensee was discharged from treatment due to noncompliance with the treatment program. The Georgia Order noted that Licensee was also noncompliant with the aftercare program in which she had voluntarily enrolled. The Georgia Order indicated that the physician conducting the evaluations determined that the Licensee was not capable of practicing clinical nursing with reasonable skill and safety. Based upon the information received, the Georgia Board determined that continued practice by the Licensee posed a threat to the public health, safety and welfare and imperatively required emergency action. Consequently, the Georgia Board summarily suspended the Licensee and noticed her for an expedited hearing.

The South Dakota Board, in addition to receiving the Georgia Order, was also made aware that Licensee had also been summarily suspended in the state of Wyoming in July 2017.

Consequently, Licensee has agreed that she would surrender her South Dakota nursing license and now intends to leave the profession of nursing as a registered nurse in the State of South Dakota.

3. That the Licensee has been given an opportunity to discuss this Voluntary Surrender Consent Order with an attorney of Licensee's choice, and is aware of her right to a hearing in this matter, and of her rights under the United States and South Dakota Constitutions, laws, rules and/or regulations. Licensee hereby voluntarily waives all such rights to a hearing, notice, appearance, or any other rights under said Constitutions, laws, rules and/or regulations.

Voluntary Surrender Consent Order Licensee: Karen Palmer, RN DOH 17-12

Licensee also agrees that the Board's Executive Director or her designee may present this Voluntary Surrender Consent Order to the Board and disclose to the Board all items of her investigation, including, but not limited to, any communications with Licensee.

- 4. That the Licensee's license to practice nursing in South Dakota and her privilege to practice nursing pursuant to the Nurse Licensure Compact shall be surrendered and the Board shall suspend said license for an indefinite period from the date of this Order. Licensee may apply to have her license reinstated for good cause shown.
- 5. That nothing in this Voluntary Surrender Consent Order should imply that the Licensee shall be reinstated. Licensee recognizes that the reinstatement terms, as well as the requirements for reinstatement, are at the sole discretion of the South Dakota Board.
- 6. That if the Licensee requests reinstatement, Licensee has the burden of presenting information showing that Licensee's license should be reinstated.
- 7. That it is further stipulated and agreed that this Voluntary Surrender Consent
 Order is being entered into voluntarily by the Licensee and without threats or coercion and is
 entered into after the Licensee has been given ample opportunity to consider these matters and to
 discuss this Voluntary Surrender Consent Order with an attorney of Licensee's choice and that
 the Licensee has a full understanding of the legal consequences of this Voluntary Surrender
 Consent Order and of the Licensee's rights to a formal hearing on these matters, which rights are
 hereby waived by the signing of this Voluntary Surrender Consent Order.

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- 8. Licensee understands that during the period of this Voluntary Surrender that she is ineligible to work in any nursing role, including that of a nurse aide, nurse assistant, or medication assistant/aide.
- 9. This action is reportable discipline and will be published in the South Dakota Board's newsletter and posted on its website and reported into the National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB) as required by law.
- 10. That the Board may enter an Order consistent with the terms of this Stipulation. NOW, THEREFORE, the foregoing Voluntary Surrender Consent Order is entered into and is respectfully submitted to the South Dakota Board with the request that the South Dakota Board adopt its terms as an Order of the Board in the above matter.

Dated this day of Oct , 2017.

Karen Palmer, RN

Voluntary Surrender Consent Order Licensee: Karen Palmer, RN DOH 17-12

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the above Voluntary Surrender Consent Order is adopted as shown herein by the South Dakota Board of Nursing this day of November, 2017.

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF NURSING

Gloria Damgaard, RN, MS

Executive Director